

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amended Claims follow:

1. (Original) A system for searching for and presenting collections of conventional objects, comprising:

a computerized system;

a display unit controllable by said computerized system;

a selection unit influencing what said computerized system depicts with said display unit;

a meta-folder containing at least one search object for locating current instances of the conventional objects in said computerized system;

wherein a closed representation of said meta-folder is depictable on said display unit, said closed representation being selectable and open able with said selection unit; and

further wherein an open representation of said meta-folder is also depictable on said display unit, said open representation of said meta-folder including representations of said current instances of the conventional objects.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said computerized system includes a network, a client device which is connectable to said network, and at least one server which is connected to said network, such that said client device may access instances of the conventional objects, said search objects, and said meta-folders which are stored on said at least one server.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said network is a global communications network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said client device is a member of the set consisting of personal computers and enhanced devices.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said search object is provided as a file and

may be freely transferred and stored within said computer system.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said display unit depicts using non-visual representations.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said display unit depicts using at least one member of the set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile representations.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said selection unit is a user operated input device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said selection unit is an automated process.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said meta-folder further includes at least one member of the set consisting of conventional objects and other said meta-folders.

11. (Original) A method for searching for and presenting collections of conventional objects in a computerized system having a display unit and a selection unit, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) depicting a meta-folder with the display unit as a closed representation, wherein said meta-folder contains at least one previously defined search object;

- (b) selecting and opening said meta-folder with the selection unit;

- (c) resolving all said search objects in said meta folder into current instances of the conventional objects which are findable within the computerized system; and

- (d) depicting said meta-folder with the display unit as an open representation which includes said current instances of the conventional objects which are thus found.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said meta-folder is provided as a file and the method further comprises transferring said file from a storage medium into the computerized system.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein:

the computerized system includes a network, a client device which is connectable to said network, and a server which is connected to said network; and
said meta-folder is stored on said server;
and the method further comprises:
connecting said client device to said server via said network; and
accessing said meta-folder on said server via said network.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein

said meta-folder is a parent meta-folder;
said parent meta-folder further includes at least one member of the set consisting of conventional objects and other said meta-folders;
step (c) includes resolving all said search objects in all said meta folders into current instances of the conventional objects which are findable in the computerized system; and
step (d) includes depicting said open representation including said current instances of all the conventional objects which are thus found.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said step (a) and said step (d) include depicting with the display unit using non-visual representations.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said step (a) and said step (d) include depicting with the display unit using at least one member of the set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile representations.

17. (Original) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for searching for and presenting collections of conventional objects in a computer system having a display unit and a selection unit, comprising:

(a) a code segment that depicts a meta-folder with the display unit as a closed representation, wherein said meta-folder contains at least one previously defined search object;

(b) a code segment that selects and opens said meta-folder upon instruction from the selection unit;

(c) a code segment that resolves all said search objects in said meta folder into current instances of the conventional objects which are findable in the computerized system; and

(d) a code segment that depicts an open representation of said meta-folder with the display unit which includes said current instances of the conventional objects which are thus found.

18. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein said meta-folder is provided as a file, and the computer program further comprising a code segment that transfers said file from a storage medium into the computerized system.

19. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein:

the computerized system may include a network, a client device which is connectable to said network, and a server which is connected to said network; and

said meta-folder may be stored on said server; and the computer program further comprising:

a code segment that connects said client device to said server via said network; and

a code segment that accesses said meta-folder on said server via said network.

20. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein said code segment (a) and said code segment (d) depict using non-visual representations with the display unit.

21. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein said code segment (a) and said code segment (d) using at least one member of the set consisting of visual, audible, and tactile representations with the display unit.

22. (Original) The computer program of claim 17, wherein

said meta-folder is a parent meta-folder;

said parent meta-folder further includes at least one member of the set consisting of conventional objects and other said meta-folders;

said code segment (c) resolves all said search objects in all said meta folders into current instances of the conventional objects which are findable in said computerized system; and

said code segment (d) depicts an open representation of said parent meta-folder including said current instances of all the conventional objects which are thus found.

23. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer to:

display a meta-folder containing a search object configured by a user;

open the meta-folder;

automatically initiate the resolution of the search object by searching the network and the personal computer for conventional objects that satisfy the search object; and

display icons representing the conventional objects, wherein the icons are displayed on a user interface of the personal computer.

24. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network.

25. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network.

26. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes the Internet.

27. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet and the network includes a collection of storage systems for storing at least some of the conventional objects.

28. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and a wide area network.

29. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and the Internet.

30. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network and the Internet.

31. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network and the Internet.

32. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a user server connected to the personal computer.

33. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server stores the meta-folder.

34. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the user server stores at least some of the conventional objects.

35. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via a local area network.

36. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via a wide area network.

37. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via the Internet.

38. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a content server via the Internet.

39. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the content server is a web-page server, an FTP server or a news server.

40. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a vendor server via the Internet.

41. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the meta-folder is stored on the vendor server or the user server.

42. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 40, wherein the vendor server includes a search engine or media products.

43. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 42, wherein the media products include books, video tapes, DVDs, CDs and audio cassettes.

44. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to initiate a transfer of the meta-folder from the user to another user via the network.

45. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein the transfer occurs through electronic mail.

46. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the conventional objects include conventional folders, conventional files, electronic mail, notes, contact or address book items or files containing text, audio or video information.

47. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the search object includes wildcard characters.

48. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the meta-folder includes indicia indicative of a search function.

49. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 48, wherein the indicia is a magnifying glass.

50. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the meta-folder includes descriptive text.

51. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 50, wherein the descriptive text describes the search object.

52. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects on a single screen of the user interface.

53. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user interface.

54. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the conventional objects pertain to music.

55. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to initiate playing the music.

56. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to generate icons that indicate whether the music is owned or un-owned.

57. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to initiate a purchase of the music.

58. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to provide a link from which the user can purchase the music.

59. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer connected to a network are capable of causing the personal computer to:

display a meta-folder containing a search object;

open the meta-folder;

automatically initiate the resolution of the search object by searching the personal computer, a local area network and the Internet for conventional objects that satisfy the search object; and

display icons representing the conventional objects, wherein the icons are displayed on a user interface of the personal computer.

60. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the network includes a user server connected to the personal computer.

61. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server stores the meta-folder.
62. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server stores at least some of the conventional objects.
63. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via the local area network.
64. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via a wide area network.
65. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to the personal computer via the Internet.
66. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to a content server via the Internet.
67. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 66, wherein the content server is a web-page server, an FTP server or a news server.
68. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the user server is connected to a vendor server via the Internet.
69. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the meta-folder is stored on the vendor server or the user server.
70. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 68, wherein the vendor server includes a search engine or media products.

71. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 70, wherein the media products include books, video tapes, DVDs, CDs and audio cassettes.

72. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects on a single screen of the user interface.

73. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal computer to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user interface.

74. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by an enhanced device connected to a network are capable of causing the enhanced device to:

display a meta-folder containing a search object configured by a user;

open the meta-folder;

automatically initiate the resolution of the search object by searching the network and the enhanced device for conventional objects that satisfy the search object; and

display icons representing the conventional objects, wherein the icons are displayed on a user interface of the enhanced device.

75. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is a personal digital assistant.

76. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 75, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the personal digital assistant to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user interface.

77. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is a web-access enabled portable telephone.

78. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 77, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the web-access enabled portable telephone to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user interface.

79. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the enhanced device is an audio player.

80. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 79, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the audio player to display the meta-folder, the icons representing the conventional objects and other objects in an intermingling manner on the user interface.

81. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer are capable of causing the personal computer to:

display a meta-folder containing a search object;

open the meta-folder;

initiate the resolution of the search object by searching for conventional objects that satisfy the search object; and

display icons representing the conventional objects, wherein the icons are displayed on a user interface of the personal computer;

wherein the meta-folder includes a magnifying glass-shaped icon.

82. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 81, wherein the magnifying glass-shaped icon is a sub-icon.

83. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 81, wherein the magnifying glass-shaped icon indicates the existence of the search object.

84. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 81, wherein the magnifying glass-shaped icon is combined with a conventional object icon.

85. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 81, wherein the magnifying glass-shaped icon is combined with a conventional folder icon.

86. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer are capable of causing the personal computer to:

display at least one meta-folder containing a search object, where upon opening the meta-folder, the search object is resolved by searching for conventional objects that satisfy the search object; and

display at least one conventional folder that statically points to at least one conventional object;

wherein the meta-folder and the conventional folder appear together in the same context of a single interface.

87. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes a window.

88. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes a window pane.

89. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 86, wherein the context includes an icon bar.

90. (New) A computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by a personal computer are capable of causing the personal computer to:

display at least one meta-folder containing a search object;

upon opening the meta-folder,

resolve the search object by searching for search result conventional objects that satisfy the search object, and

display the search result conventional objects; and

display together with the search result conventional objects at least one static conventional object to which the meta-folder statically points.

91. (New) A computer readable medium of claim 90, wherein at least one of the search result conventional objects and static conventional object are dragged and dropped into the meta-folder.